

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03305 210532Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EUR-08 IO-06 H-01 INR-05
PM-03 PA-01 SP-02 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
AF-04 NEA-07 ARA-10 /073 W
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P R 210522Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 612
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

S E C R E T SEOUL 3305

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PORG
SUBJECT: YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE: APPARENT MISDIRECTION

REF: JAKARTA 5156

1. REFTEL IS LATEST IN SERIES OF REPORTS WHICH INDICATE YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATS APPARENTLY SERIOUSLY MISINTERPRETING U.S. RESPONSE TO TITO PROPOSAL ON TRIPARTITE TALKS. THESE STATEMENTS FIND THEIR WAY BACK TO THE ROK EITHER THROUGH PRESS LEAKS, SUCH AS THAT ON THE TRIPARTITE PROPOSAL ITSELF, OR THROUGH THEIR CONTACTS IN THIRD COUNTRIES. RESULT IS TO INCREASE DISTRUST OF U.S. AND DISTASTE FOR YUGOSLAV PROPOSAL AND TO MAKE MORE UNLIKELY THAT POSITIVE ASPECTS WILL REMAIN IN THE FOREFRONT.

2. WE HAVE INDICATIONS ROMANIAN DIPLOMATS ARE ALSO PLANTING FALSE REPORTS ON CEAUSESCU MEETING. WE ARE THEREFORE INCLINED TO SUSPECT THAT BOTH YUGOSLAVIA AND ROMANIA ARE ENGAGING IN DELIBERATE DISINFORMATION PROGRAM AIMED AT CHEATING FISSURES BETWEEN U.S. AND ROK.

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3. WE HAVE ALREADY BRIEFED FOREIGN OFFICE (POLCOUNS CLARK TO PAK SANG-YONG) INDICATING OUR CONCERN THAT THESE REPORTS NOT BE MISINTERPRETED BY THE ROK AS A CHANGE IN THE U.S. POSITION. WE REAFFIRMED OUR COMMITMENT TO NO DISCUSSIONS WITH THE NORTH WITHOUT FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPATION OF THE ROKG.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT TWO ADDITIONAL STEPS WOULD BE USEFUL. FIRST, BELIEVE APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE IN BELGRADE INDICATING U.S. POSITION AND OUR CONCERN THAT YUGOSLAV DIPLOMATIC INTERPRETATION OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO EXPLORE WHAT IS IN FACT A YUGOSLAV INITIATIVE MUST NOT BE INTERPRETED AS A SHIFT IN U.S. POSITION. OUR POSITION HAS ALWAYS BEEN A WILLINGNESS TO MEET WITH THE NORTH PROVIDED THE ROK IS PRESENT AS A FULL AND EQUAL PARTICIPANT. SIMILAR AFFIRMATION OF U.S. POSITION SHOULD BE MADE TO BUCHAREST. SECOND, BELIEVE IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CIRCULARIZE ALL U.S. MISSIONS WITH A BRIEF STATEMENT ON THE U.S. POSITION IN ORDER THAT THEY MAY BE IN A POSITION TO QUICKLY REBUT ANY MISDIRECTION RECEIVED BY THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS.
SNEIDER

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